

# FARMING

Farming has always shaped life in Northallerton and its two nearest villages, Romanby and Brompton. Northallerton still has twice-weekly livestock markets next to the green space known as the Applegarth. These are the successors to the trade in animals that took place in the marketplace in the middle of Northallerton's High Street, ever since the granting of a Wednesday market in 1127. Wednesday and Saturday markets continue to this day, along with the May Fair, one of four fairs endorsed by the Bishop of Durham in 1772.

Next to the marketplace, before the Town Hall was constructed in 1873, stood the Shambles, two rows of slaughter houses, butchers and tanners, all ready to process the animals that changed hands there. A poultry sale in the run-up to Christmas was organised for many years in the town hall by Darwin's, the local auctioneer, with the last of these taking place some 30 years ago.

In 1905 a co-operative of local dairy farmers formed the Wensleydale Pure Milk Society Ltd. Its depot in Northallerton became the destination for bulk transportation of milk by rail, where it was purified before being sent to market. The business changed hands several times over the years until, as the Arla Foods Creamery, it finally ceased operations in 2010.

